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TRAINING CONFERENCE ,  
University of Nevada ,

~~June 4-6~~, 1957 //

Purpose: To bring about better understanding of the responsibilities and abilities of Extension Service, BIA, Indians and others in participating in an Extension program.

The theme of the Conference was: The Development of Human Resources.

The Nevada Extension Service invited county personnel of areas having Indian population, BIA and Department of Agriculture representatives, Indian leaders and representatives of school and church groups. They shared ideas, attitudes and information as a basis of better understanding how to improve program activities with Indians.

The following techniques were used to provide an opportunity to understand and more effectively use human attributes -- to think, to understand and to do.

1. Indian leaders from different communities provided guidance to the agents' thinking and understanding of their community situations and responsibilities such as:
  - a. How to help all families. Few are farmers and there is a lack of adequate land units.
  - b. Need for educational assistance on management and social adjustment.

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- c. Desire for electricity and power and how to achieve it.
  - d. Importance of recognizing political body or leaders and gaining entrance to the community and families.
2. BIA personnel clarified the division activities that affect an Extension program by explaining the functions of:
- a. Realty (land ownership status: assignment, allotment, tribal ownership).
  - b. Credit (kinds: policies and procedures).
  - c. Law and Order (legal status of tribal courts, special officers).
  - d. Land Operations: Irrigation, Soil and Moisture, Range Management (legal aspects, management and operation of each).
  - e. Tribal Organizations.
3. General discussions centered on how to help Indians more effectively use their talents by:
- a. Pre-preparation of representatives or groups for participation in activities.
  - b. Giving individual responsibilities; having faith in their ability to carry them out; letting them do it in their way with continued support of the worker.
  - c. Recognition of achievement.
  - d. Helping leaders who have followed good practices to show their neighbors and products that have resulted from these practices.
  - e. Visiting families until there is a basis of confidence established so that agents and Indians understand, appreciate and respect the customs, beliefs and habits of each other.

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4. Task forces and panels were used in discussing problems, developing ideas and formulating plans on assigned topics:
  - a. What factual information does the staff need to carry on a program?
  - b. What kind of program can we develop?
  - c. How can we get involvement of local people?
  - d. What is the potential of success for the family approach in better decision making.

It is our observation that the following conclusions were reached at the conference:

1. A better understanding was reached by groups on the functions, organizational relationships and services to each other and to the people.
2. The appreciation of the cultural patterns and customs of people that affect their habits of living provided a better understanding of how to approach or introduce program activities.
3. The thinking and planning together established for the Extension workers a feeling of responsibility and confidence in meeting the challenges involved in the program.
4. Although there is no special formula for working with Indians, it requires an understanding of the difference in attitudes, culture and background. The Extension principles of working with people where they are and within their abilities of accomplishment is the basis of establishing a program.

5. The family unit approach is an effective way to do Extension work with Indians.
6. This was a good demonstration of coordinating the thinking and understanding of the groups involved in a voluntary educational program.

In our opinion the Nevada Extension Service is to be congratulated for planning and conducting a conference and accomplishing the purpose for which it was called. We consider this training session a forward step in Extension work with Indians.







